

9 August 1951

The Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Humphrey:

Pursuant to our telephone conversation, I
am enclosing a very frank letter which I have written
to Judging from his record
and background, he is of sufficiently high caliber
to appreciate frankness and I think he deserves no
less.

Very sincerely,

SIGNED

Walter B. Smith
Director

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Last week I had a letter from Senator Humphrey, who is a friend of ours, bringing to my personal attention the circumstances involved in your application for employment with the Central Intelligence Agency. He noted that after a long period of consideration you had been informed that you were no longer being considered for employment by the Agency and had been told informally that this was because of the results of the security investigation.

At his request, I personally reviewed the entire matter and I believe you are entitled to know exactly what transpired, particularly since you were kept in suspense for so long a time. I am, therefore, departing from our usual procedure which is to give no information on such matters. Quite frankly, a summary of our analysis of your record indicates that you have every qualification for the post for which you were considered except one. To lift bodily and very abruptly a phrase from one of your military reports, this single disqualification is described in the words, "talks too much." Had the report referred to been the only such commentary, the Agency would have disregarded it on the balance as against other unusually high qualifications of intelligence and ability. In this business, however, and particularly in the post for which you were under consideration, ability to remain silent under extreme provocation is absolutely mandatory.

You will appreciate from the above that there was no implication whatever that you were untrustworthy, politically confused, or had the slightest tinge of pink. In fact, were your background and qualifications less excellent, I would not have spoken as frankly to you as I have in this letter.

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I consider personnel of this Agency at fault in having given you too much assurance of employment prior to completion of formal investigation which takes a long time. However, you are aware, I think, that much of this delay is due to circumstances beyond our control.

In conclusion, I want you to know that I was personally impressed with your record. If you should have occasion to be in Washington, I would be glad to have you call and see me.

Very sincerely,

Walter B. Smith

Walter B. Smith
Director

cc: Senator Hubert H. Humphrey

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